



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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June 23, 2005

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **GME-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 21.40.040 AND 21.40.080 OF TITLE 21
GEOLOGY AND SOILS REPORTS SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION
WITH A TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed ordinance, amending Sections 21.40.040 and 21.40.080 of Title 21 - Subdivisions, require that geology and soils reports submitted in connection with a tentative subdivision map be in electronic format in addition to hardcopy format, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15306 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines).
2. Approve the proposed ordinance for introduction.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The use of digital submissions is becoming prevalent in local governmental organizations. The major objectives of such systems are to reduce storage space and increase the accessibility of records. The proposed ordinance, if adopted, will significantly reduce the amount of storage space required and increase the accessibility of submitted geology and soils reports.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as the proposed ordinance will improve access to quality information.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This recommended action will significantly reduce the amount of future storage required for submitted geology and soils reports.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The subdivision of real property, including the filing and processing of tentative maps, is governed by the Subdivision Map Act (Government Code Section 66410, et seq.). In addition to the standards and requirements contained in the Subdivision Map Act, Section 66411 of the Government Code authorizes the County to adopt local ordinance regulating and controlling the design and improvement of subdivisions. Further, Section 66490 of the Government Code provides that the County shall require a preliminary soils report for every tentative map.

The County's regulations pertaining to the processing of subdivision applications and the design and improvement of subdivisions are contained in Title 21 of the Los Angeles County Code. Section 21.40.040 currently authorizes the County to require a geological report to be submitted with any tentative subdivision map. Section 21.40.080 currently requires that a preliminary soils report be submitted with each tentative subdivision map. If adopted, the enclosed ordinance would require that these reports be submitted in an electronic format in addition to a hardcopy format.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The adoption of the proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of the ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment and also pursuant to Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the proposed ordinance pertains to the collection of data.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Not applicable.

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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

No adverse impact.

CONCLUSION

Please return one copy of the adopted letter and the ordinance to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Acting Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Sections 21.40.040 and 21.40.080 of Title 21 - Subdivisions of the Los Angeles County Code to require that geology and soils reports submitted in connection with a tentative subdivision map be in electronic format in addition to hardcopy format. The ordinance contains other minor clarifications.

RAYMOND J. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

By 
MARK T. YANAI
Principal Deputy County Counsel
Public Works Division

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04/07/05 (Requested)

04/25/05 (Revised)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Sections 21.40.040 and 21.40.080 of Title 21 - Subdivisions of the Los Angeles County Code to require that geology and soils reports submitted in connection with a tentative subdivision map be in electronic format in addition to hardcopy format.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 21.40.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21.40.040 Contents -- Information and documents required.

A. The tentative map shall show and contain, or be accompanied by, the following matters as an aid to the advisory agency in its consideration of the design of the division land:

...

14. Approximate contours at sufficient intervals to determine existing topography and all proposed grading. Proposed grading shall be shown in a manner that ~~feasibility of~~clearly demonstrates compliance with ~~Ordinance 2225, Appendix Chapter 7033 (see of~~ Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code), ~~can be determined;~~

...

20. When required by the county engineer, Aa geological report to determine, prepared by an engineering geologist certified by the State Board of Registration for Geologists of the State of California, which states whether or not the

property to be divided is subject to an existing or potential geological hazard; and/or a ~~written report stating which discusses~~ how the geological conditions will affect the proposed development ~~shall be submitted whenever required by the county engineer.~~ The report shall be prepared by an engineering geologist certified by the State Board of Registration for Geologists of the state of California submitted in hardcopy format and also in an electronic version on a compact disc in Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) with searchable text. The report shall include the engineering geologist's seal, signature, license number, and the date on which the engineering geologist signed and affixed his or her seal to the report;

...

SECTION 2. Section 21.40.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21.40.080 Soils report.

- A. The subdivider shall submit a preliminary soils report with each tentative map when required by the county engineer.
- B. The report shall be prepared by a registered civil engineer and be based upon adequate test borings or excavations.
- C. The report shall be submitted in hardcopy format and also in an electronic version on a compact disc in Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) with searchable text. The report shall include the civil engineer's seal, signature, license number, and the date on which the civil engineer signed and affixed his or her seal to the report.

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